

Driving Tours

Fauquier County

A Trek across the Foothills

Day 1:

Start your tour on RT 688 heading for the historic hamlet of Orlean, boyhood home of Judge John Barton Payne, Secretary of the Interior under President Woodrow Wilson. Stop to enjoy an ice cream or cold drink at the Orlean Market or browse through the specialty shops in town before taking RT 647 westward .07 miles outside town. Take in the scenery of rolling horse and cattle farms on your way to Farfelu Winery. Virginia's first winery, Farfelu specializes in artisan wines that appeal to the most discriminating wine connoisseurs. From Farfelu continue on RT 647 West to the quaint town of Flint Hill for lunch. After lunch take US 522 northward to RT 635 and Rappahannock Cellars. Learn about wine making while sampling the premium wines from this family-owned winery and vineyard. Only a short distance east on RT 635 is Oasis Winery, home to award winning Chardonnay wines. Purchase a glass and take advantage of the picturesque view of the vineyard off their arbor terrace. Continue heading east on RT 635 to the Marriott Ranch to check in to the Fairfield Inn for an overnight or follow RT 635 into the quaint hamlet of Hume to enjoy an evening at the Canterbury Cottage PendragonDale Bed and Breakfast. Located off RT 688 south of town, the Canterbury Cottage provides themed evening packages with an Elizabethan flair. Dine that evening at the Orlean Market Restaurant or with previous reservations at your Bed and Breakfast.

Day 2:

Head north to the wineries and orchards on RT 688. Your first stop is in Markham at Stribling's Orchard, home to six generation of farmers. Stribling's offers historic tours of the plantation's kitchen and out buildings, the original slave quarters that is now home to the Piedmont Artisans shop housing pottery and art work from area artist and a farmers market where home grown produce can be purchased in season. Continue up RT 688 to Hartland Orchard. During peach season you can stop and get a mid-morning snack of Fauquier peaches. Keep following RT 688 to Naked Mountain Winery for a tour and a tasting of some of Fauquier's premier wines. Take RT 688 further north to US 17 North to Sky Meadows State Park and Mt. Bleak Manor for a picnic lunch. Situated along the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Sky Meadows State Park provides a wealth of outdoor activities. From its Visitor Center there is easy access to the Appalachian Trail, picnic areas, tent camping, horseback riding and birding trails. Mt. Bleak Manor, a historic farmhouse, is the staging area for living history demonstrations, tours and activities. If a picnic is not what you have in mind, continue up US 17 North to US 50 East to the quaint hunt village of Upperville for lunch. Enjoy a wide variety of traditional old world favorites at the 1763 Inn or Hunters Head Tavern. Afterward, stay long enough to peek into the charming antique and specialty shops in Upperville's historic district. During horse show season make sure to allow enough time to take in a competition before heading eastward via US 50 to the historic town of Middleburg. Explore the charming shops and boutiques of Middleburg, originally named Chinn's Crossroads by Joseph Chinn, first cousin to George Washington. Complete your tour at Piedmont Vineyards via RT 626 off US 50. Partake in some refreshments and relaxation on this Pre-Revolutionary estate of "Waverly". Walk over the beautiful estate grounds while enjoying a taste of some of the winery's premium offerings. Head south on RT 626 to the Village of The Plains for dinner and overnight. Enjoy the charming Victorian surroundings at the Grey Horse Inn for the night. Situated in the historic district it is within walking distance of The Plains quaint shops and restaurants. Friday evenings from July through October Polo takes the field at Great Meadow Event Center. Come prepared to take part in the honored tradition of "Stomping the Divots" while discovering the fun of this equestrian sport under the stars.

Day 3:

After breakfast, take a walking tour of the charming Village of The Plains; note the Federal and Georgian architecture of the 48 historic homes and commercial building dating back to the late 1700's. Stop in the many enchanting artisan shops and boutiques during your tour to find that special keepsake or one-of-kind decorative piece. Find time in your morning to visit the African American Historical Society Museum and Resource Center. Learn about African Americans past struggles and their contributions to the growth of a nation. Take time for lunch at one of the delicious restaurants before heading home.

www.fauquiertourism.com

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